

**+**

Approved for use through 10/31/2002 OMB 0651-0031

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1997, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/981,807
Filing Date	10/19/01
First Named Inventor	Tetsuya WATANABE
Group Art Unit	3676
Examiner Name	V. A. Patel
Attorney Docket Number	36595-176071

*(use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	1	of	1
-------	---	----	---

[illegible][illegible]

Vishal Patel

12/20/25

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**

**VENABLE**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box ☐

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>			
		Application Number	09/981,807		
		Filing Date	October 19, 2001		
		First Named Inventor	Tetsuya WATANABE et al.		
		Group Art Unit	3676		
		Examiner Name	Vishal A. Patel		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	36595-176071

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
VP	A	3,383,117	A	Fagel	05-14-1968	
VP	B	4,573,690	A	Dehart et al.	03-04-1986	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>3</sup>
		Office <sup>2</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
VP	C		266 732	A		05-11-1988		
VP	D		879 977	A		11-25-1998		
VP	E		40 18 278	A		12-19-1991		

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

Examiner Signature	<i>Vishal Patel</i>	Date Considered	12/20/05
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	----------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached